



... she appeared as a lover might ...

Del Kathryn Barton

Del's work has a strong foundation of drawing, although she has recently begun to work with painting. She cites artists Kiki Smith, Louise Bourgeois, John Currin and Shirin Neshat as influences, as well as the drawings of Henry Darger, botanical art and fabric design. Her early works featured Egon Schiele-like drawings of naked female bodies entwined with rabbits (which appear repeatedly in her work) but also birds and native animals. The explicit nature of the drawings – with the female genitals depicted in detail and the animals often emerging from the figure's body – have frequently been read as pornographic. However, rather than intentionally explicit or titillating, the drawings are the product of Del's interest in the relationship between humankind and nature. She sees a spiritual presence residing in the natural world and is concerned with the effect of this on humankind's physiological and metaphysical existence.

Source: Art & Australia Magazine